

REMARKS

Claims 37-44 are pending. The Final Action dated December 8, 2003 in this Application has been carefully considered the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application into allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 37-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,936 by Lundh (“Lundh”). Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of Claims 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Lundh is improper. Lundh has a filing date of October 31, 2000. However, the Application has a filing date of December 15, 1999. Therefore, because the filing date of the Application predates Lundh, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 37-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Lundh be withdrawn and that Claims 37-44 be allowed.

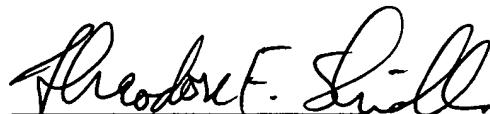
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 37-44.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP



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